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Experts: Anti-LGBTQ rhetoric could galvanize extremists

By REBECCA BOONE
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — As hate speech targeting LGBTQ people increases among some far-right influencers and others online, experts are warning that extremist groups may see the rhetoric as a call to action.

Such may have been the case when 31 members of the neo-Nazi group Patriot Front were arrested in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on Saturday and charged with conspiracy to riot at a Pride event, said Sophie Bjork-James, an assistant professor in anthropology at Vanderbilt University who researches the white nationalist movement, racism and hate crimes in the U.S. The arrests came as a toxic brew of anti-LGBTQ rhetoric

has been on the rise in Idaho and elsewhere.

"There is a very clear relationship between normalizing this hateful content and having extremist groups try to mobilize around that in hateful actions," she said. "We can see a direct relationship between the spectrum of anti-LGBT rhetoric from statehouses into these extremist groups."

Domestic extremist groups see conservatives as potential allies, Bjork-James said, and they've found anti-LGBTQ sentiment is one of the easiest ways to "build a broader coalition among the radical right."

"Unfortunately, I think it is a strategy that is working," she said.

Continued on next page



James Hammond, the mayor of Coeur d'Alene, right, speaks as Lee White, the police chief of Coeur d'Alene, looks on during a news conference at the Coeur d'Alene Library, Monday, June 13, 2022, about the arrest of more than two dozen members of Patriot Front near a pride event on Saturday in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Associated Press

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Continued from Front

Last month, a fundamentalist Idaho pastor told his small Boise congregation that gay, lesbian and transgender people should be executed by the government. Another fundamentalist pastor in Texas gives similar sermons.

Rep. Heather Scott, an Idaho Republican lawmaker, recently told an audience that drag queens and other LGBTQ supporters are waging a "war of perversion against our children." And last week, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said he would consider sending child protective services to investigate parents who take their kids to drag shows.

The Department of Homeland Security warned last week that white nationalists and supremacists are using social media platforms like Instagram, Telegram and TikTok to present skewed framing of divisive issues like abortion, guns and LGBTQ rights, potentially driving extremists to attack public places across the U.S. in the coming months.

Online court records do not yet show if the Patriot Front members have obtained attorneys. All were released from jail after posting \$300 bond, and court dates have yet to be set for the misdemeanor charges.

Thomas Rousseau, a 23-year-old from Grapevine, Texas, has been identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as the Patriot Front founder and was among those arrested. He did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment.

Police say the men piled into a U-Haul truck wearing balaclavas and bearing riot gear, with plans to



Authorities arrest members of the white supremacist group Patriot Front near an Idaho pride event Saturday, June 11, 2022, after they were found packed into the back of a U-Haul truck with riot gear.

Associated Press

instigate a riot at the park where families, children and supporters were gathered to celebrate the LGBTQ community. Those arrested came from at least 11 states, including Illinois, Arkansas and Virginia.

Coeur d'Alene Police Chief Lee White said Monday that since the arrests, his agency had received nearly 150 calls, evenly split between people thanking officers for averting a riot and people angry about the arrests. Many of the calls included death threats, Lee said, and some came from as far away as Norway.

Jennifer McCoy, a professor of political science at Georgia State University, said that when people with influence like political figures, sports or entertainment stars, religious leaders or media figures engage

in rhetoric against specific groups, supporters can interpret it as a call for action.

"This can happen regardless of the intent or specific wording of the message, and is common in highly polarized contexts such as the U.S. is currently experiencing," McCoy wrote in an email Monday.

For Bree Latimer, a 22-year-old trans woman from Boise, the news of the arrests was alarming. Even in Boise, one of the most progressive cities in deep-red Idaho, harassment or hostility is a daily risk, Latimer said. Just last week Boise police were investigating after dozens of pride flags were stolen or damaged from a scenic neighborhood boulevard for the second year in a row.

"I always wonder as I walk

past people in the grocery store aisles — do they know that I'm trans? If they do know, are they going to say something? Are they going to follow me into the parking lot? Am I going to get called a groomer or something? It's just constantly living in fear," Latimer said. She gets frustrated when people call the anti-LGBTQ rhetoric a "culture war," saying it feels much more ominous.

"That diminishes what we're going through. We feel like there's almost an impending trans genocide," Latimer said. "They want us to stop having access to our hormone therapy, to be banned from talking to trans youth — they want you to be so unhappy with your life that you kill yourself. And now the hate speech is getting even scarier."

Still, she tries to focus on her computer science studies at Boise State University. On the weekends, she plays board games with friends, or occasionally heads out for an evening downtown. "Being trans is a big part of my identity, but it's definitely not everything," Latimer said. "Still, the reality is, it's scary being a trans person in America right now."

Northern Idaho has long been associated with extremist groups, most prominently the Aryan Nations, which was often in the news in the 1990s. The area drew disaffected people after white supremacist Richard Butler moved there in 1973 from California.

After the Aryan Nations' heyday, many local officials tried to disassociate the region from extremism. But in recent years, some politicians, civic leaders and real estate agents have boasted about northern Idaho's conservatism to draw like-minded people. At a news conference Monday, Coeur d'Alene Mayor Jim Hammond said the city is no longer a locus of hate.

"We are not going back to the days of the Aryan Nations. We are past that," he declared.

Scott, the northern Idaho lawmaker who said drag queens are waging a "war of perversion" on kids, did not respond to an email request for comment.

Elsewhere around the country, authorities in the San Francisco Bay Area are investigating a possible hate crime after a group of men allegedly shouted anti-LGBTQ slurs during Drag Queen Story Hour at the San Lorenzo Library over the weekend. □



A U.S. Marshal patrols outside the home of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, in Chevy Chase, Md., June 8, 2022.

Associated Press

House OKs security boost for Supreme Court judges, families

By KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House gave final approval Tuesday to legislation that would allow around-the-clock security protection for families of Supreme Court justices, one week after a man carrying a gun, knife and zip ties was arrested near Justice Brett Kavanaugh's house after threatening to kill the justice.

The Senate passed the bill unanimously last month, but it languished in the House as Democrats sought to broaden the measure to include protection for families of court employees. Republicans ramped up pressure to pass the bill after the arrest at Kavanaugh's house, asserting that Democrats were essentially trying to intimidate the justices as the court weighs a potential landmark ruling on abortion.

The House passed the security measure overwhelmingly, 396-27. All of the votes in opposition came from Democrats. □

1/6 panel postpones hearing with ex-Justice Dept. officials

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol has postponed a hearing that was to feature dramatic testimony from former Justice Department officials who were pressured by then-President Donald Trump to pursue his false election fraud theories.

The hearing had been scheduled for Wednesday, but the committee on Tuesday morning said that it had been delayed. A spokesman for the panel attributed the postponement to "a number of scheduling factors, including production timeline and availability of members and witnesses."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, a Republican member of the committee, said on Twitter that the hearing had been moved to next week as a way to "space out" the testimony surrounding the insurrection, when crowds of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden's victory.

The committee has already held two hearings, including a primetime one last week that featured never-before-seen video of extremists leading the deadly siege. Another hearing is set to take place on Thursday.

The witnesses at Wednesday's hearing were to include Jeffrey Rosen, who was the acting attorney general at the time of the Capitol insurrection, as well as two other former top officials at the Justice Department, Richard Donoghue and Steven Engel. Lawyers for all three men did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

The witnesses, all of whom have since left the Justice Department, are expected to testify about how Trump sought to bend the department to his political will during the final days of his administration by urging officials to declare the election as corrupt and to aid in his efforts to challenge the results of the race won by Democrat Joe Biden.

Though the lawyers' accounts have been docu-



A video exhibit plays as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol continues to reveal its findings of a year-long investigation, at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, June 13, 2022.

Associated Press

mented by the news media, the hearing will give the American public its most detailed glimpse of a near-revolt inside the Justice Department as Trump contemplated replacing the agency's top official with a lower-level lawyer seen as more willing to advance the president's false claims that the election was stolen. Several other senior officials warned Trump in a White House meeting that they'd resign if the leadership change occurred.

Rosen took over the department following the December 2020 departure of William Barr, who angered Trump by saying the department had not found fraud that could have affected the results of the election. Trump quickly soured on Rosen, too, after the then-acting attorney general rejected entreaties from the president and the White House to challenge the election results.

Around that time, the president was introduced by Rep. Scott Perry, a Pennsylvania Republican and ardent Trump backer, to Jeffrey Clark, a little-known assistant attorney general who postured himself as willing to advance Trump's baseless voting fraud claims.

At one point, according to testimony provided to lawmakers, Clark present-

ed colleagues with a draft letter pushing Georgia officials to convene a special legislative session on the election results. Clark wanted the letter sent, but superiors at the Justice Department refused.

A lawyer for Clark did not immediately return a phone message on Wednesday.

Clark's support led Trump to openly contemplate naming him as acting attorney general in place of Rosen.

The situation came to a head during a tense, hours-long Jan. 3, 2021 meeting at the White House in which Engel and Donoghue told Trump that they would resign from the Justice Department if Trump proceeded with his plan to fire Rosen and replace him with Clark. □

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Bronx Zoo elephant named Happy isn't a person, court rules

By **MICHAEL HILL**
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Happy the elephant may be intelligent and deserving of compassion, but she cannot be considered a person being illegally confined to the Bronx Zoo, New York's top court ruled Tuesday. The 5-2 decision by the state Court of Appeals comes in a closely watched case that tested the boundaries of applying human rights to animals.

The zoo and its supporters warned that a win for advocates at the Nonhuman Rights Project could open the door to more legal actions on behalf of animals, including pets, farm animals and other species in zoos.

The court's majority echoed that point.

The decision written by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore said that "while no one disputes that elephants are intelligent beings deserving of proper care and compassion," a writ of habeas corpus is intended to protect the liberty of human beings and does not apply to a nonhuman animal like Happy.

The decision affirms a lower court decision and means Happy will not be released through a habeas corpus



Bronx Zoo elephant "Happy" strolls inside the zoo's Asia Habitat in New York on Oct. 2, 2018.

Associated Press

proceeding, which is a way for people to challenge illegal confinement. Granting that right to Happy to challenge her confinement at a zoo "would have an enormous destabilizing impact on modern society," read the majority decision.

"Indeed, followed to its logical conclusion, such a determination would call into question the very premises underlying pet ownership,

the use of service animals, and the enlistment of animals in other forms of work," read the decision.

The Bronx Zoo argued Happy is neither illegally imprisoned nor a person, but a well-cared-for elephant "respected as the magnificent creature she is."

The advocates at the Nonhuman Rights Project argued that Happy is an autonomous, cognitively

complex elephant worthy of the right reserved in law for "a person."

Two judges, Rowan Wilson and Jenny Rivera, wrote separate, sharply worded dissents saying the fact that Happy is an animal does not prevent her from having legal rights. Rivera wrote that Happy is being held in "an environment that is unnatural to her and that does not allow her to

live her life."

"Her captivity is inherently unjust and inhumane. It is an affront to a civilized society, and every day she remains a captive — a spectacle for humans — we, too, are diminished," Rivera wrote.

The ruling from New York's highest court cannot be appealed.

The Nonhuman Rights Project has failed to prevail in similar cases, including those involving a chimpanzee in upstate New York named Tommy.

Steven Wise, the group's founder, said he was pleased it managed to persuade some of the judges. He noted that the group has a similar case underway in California and more planned in other states and other countries.

"We will take a really close look at why we lost and we'll try to make sure that that doesn't happen again to the extent that we can," he said.

Happy was born in the wild in Asia in the early 1970s, captured and brought as a 1-year-old to the United States. Happy arrived at the Bronx Zoo in 1977 with fellow elephant Grumpy, who was fatally injured in a 2002 confrontation with two other elephants. □

Native children's remains to be moved from Army cemetery



A headstone is seen at the cemetery of the U.S. Army's Carlisle Barracks, Friday, June 10, 2022, in Carlisle, Pa.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL RUBINKAM**
Associated Press

CARLISLE, Pa. (AP) — For more than a century they were buried far from home, in a small cemetery on the

grounds of the U.S. Army War College. Now they're heading home.

The Army began disinterring the remains of eight Native American children who

died at a government-run boarding school at the Carlisle Barracks, with the children's closest living relatives poised to take custody.

The disinterment process, which began over the weekend, is the fifth at Carlisle since 2017. More than 20 sets of Native remains were transferred to family members in earlier rounds. The children had lived at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, where thousands of Native children were taken from their families and forced to assimilate to white society as a matter of U.S. policy — their hair cut and their clothing, language and culture stripped. More than 10,000 children from more than 140 tribes passed through the school between 1879

and 1918, including famous Olympian Jim Thorpe.

"If you survived this experience and were able to go back home, you were a stranger. You couldn't even speak the language your parents spoke," said Rae Skenandore, of the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin. She is a relative of Paul Wheelock, one of the children whose remains will be disinterred. The off-reservation government boarding schools — Carlisle was the first, with 24 more that followed — "ripped apart tribes and communities and families," said Skenandore, adding she lost part of her own culture and language as a result. "I don't know if we can ever forgive."

She and her mother, 83-year-old Loretta Web-

ster, plan to make the trip to Carlisle later this month. Webster said her own father ran away from a similar boarding school in Wisconsin when he was 12.

"It was like a a prison camp, what they were putting these little kids in," Webster said. "It's a part of our history that's really traumatic and still affects the community today."

The children to be disinterred came from the Washoe, Catawba, Umpqua, Ute, Oneida and Aleut tribes. The sex and approximate age of each child will be verified, according to Renea Yates, director of the Office of Army Cemeteries, with archaeological and anthropological support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. □

Former Kurdish rebel has key role in Sweden's NATO bid

By KARL RITTER

STOCKHOLM (AP) —

When Turkey's president rails against "terrorists" in the Swedish Parliament, Amineh Kakabaveh is convinced he is talking about her.

The former Kurdish rebel fighter turned Swedish lawmaker has emerged as a central figure in the drama surrounding Sweden and Finland's historic bid to join NATO. Turkey opposes NATO membership for the two Nordic countries, accusing them of harboring Kurdish militants.

Kakabaveh, a strong advocate for Kurdish self-determination in the Middle East and a fierce critic of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, holds extraordinary leverage because the Swedish government depends on her vote for its one-seat majority in Parliament.

"He cannot decide over us," she says of Erdogan. "I stand up for Sweden's values and Sweden's sovereignty."

Despite a long history of non-alignment, Sweden and Finland rushed to apply for NATO membership after Russia's invasion of Ukraine but were stunned by opposition from Erdoğan.



Swedish Parliamentarian Amineh Kakabaveh poses for a photo in Stockholm, Friday, June 10, 2022.

Associated Press

gan.

To allow the Nordic countries into NATO, a decision that requires unanimity among the alliance's members, Turkey demanded they lift arms embargoes on Turkey, extradite alleged Kurdish terrorists and stop supporting Kurdish fighters in Syria. Turkey says those fighters are closely linked to PKK, a domestic Kurdish group that Ankara and the West consider a terrorist organization.

Meeting those demands would have been difficult for the Swedes and Finns in any case, but with Sweden's government dependent on Kakabaveh's support for its survival, there is little room to negotiate a compromise.

"We are not used to single members of Parliament having such influence," says Svante Cornell, director of the Institute for Security and Development Policy in Stockholm. "It's

maximal bad luck for the government's side, you could say."

Kakabaveh's backing allowed Social Democratic leader Magdalena Andersson to become Sweden's first female prime minister last year. In return, the center-left Social Democrats agreed to deepen cooperation with Kurdish authorities in northern Syria.

The minority government survived a no-confidence vote last week thanks

to Kakabaveh and will need her support again on Wednesday to push its spring budget proposal through Parliament.

Kakabaveh, an independent lawmaker, says she has not yet decided how to vote and is waiting for the government to show its plans on issues close to her heart, including efforts to fight honor-based violence and oppression against women and girls in immigrant communities and how it will deal with Turkey's demands.

"I don't want them to retreat," she says.

The prime minister's office declined to comment.

The unusual situation has raised Kakabaveh's political profile in Sweden and internationally.

It has also exposed her to criticism that she is holding Sweden's NATO bid hostage to advance her own agenda. Kakabaveh says she has received threats from both Turkish nationalists and Sweden's far-right fringe.

"It is a terrible situation," says Kakabaveh, 48. "But I don't want to sit in a corner and say, 'I'm scared.' I left my family, my childhood, everything I had, to stand up for what I believe in." □

'Everywhere. Everything. Everyone': Drugs are back in the EU

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Drug trafficking and use across the European Union are returning to pre-pandemic levels, according to the latest report published by the bloc's drug agency on Tuesday. As COVID-19 restrictions and increased border controls have been relaxed on the continent, the EMCDDA said drugs are available in large quantities in the region, and in some cases above pre-pandemic levels.

Hundreds of drug production laboratories are being dismantled, and new psychoactive substances are appearing in the bloc every week. In 2021, 52 new drugs were reported for the first time, the agency said.

"For me, the take-home message that stands out from our analysis of drug trends in 2022 can be summarized as 'Everywhere. Everything. Everyone,'" said the agency director, Alexis Goosdeel.

About 83.4 million people aged 15-64 in the EU, or 29% of that population, are estimated to have ever used an illicit drug, with more men than women reporting use.

The agency said cannabis remains the most popular substance, with over 22 million people reporting its use in 2021, ahead of cocaine, MDMA and amphetamines. Some 1 million Europeans used heroin or another illicit opioid. An estimated 5,800 overdose deaths occurred in the EU

in 2020, the most recent year for which that figure was provided.

The report pointed to an increased use of social media applications and encrypted messaging services to get access to products during the pandemic, a model that is likely to persist.

The agency said last month that record amounts of cocaine are being seized in Europe while manufacturing of the drug is now taking place inside the EU. While the agency said it's too early to assess the impact on heroin trafficking of the return to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan, the agency noted it could lead to an increase. According to the report, poppy cultivation continues in



This picture taken from a video released on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, by the Italian Financial Police during a press conference in Trieste, northern Italy, shows the seizure of cocaine as part of an international investigation that has dealt a blow to the feared Colombian Gulf Clan in one of the largest drug busts ever in Europe.

Associated Press

the country despite a ban on production and sale.

"The country's current financial problems might make drug revenues a more important source of

income," the report said.

The report also looked at the war in Ukraine, noting that the conflict could have consequences for smuggling routes. □

Cambodian court convicts lawyer, dozens of others of treason

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — A Cambodian-American lawyer and dozens of members of a now-dissolved opposition party were convicted of treason Tuesday in a trial that is part of efforts to tame opposition to the long-running rule of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Lawyer Theary Seng and most of the other defendants were charged over a failed attempt by the leader of the defunct Cambodia National Rescue Party to return from exile in 2019. Cambodian authorities blocked Sam Rainsy's return and alleged that the 60 defendants were involved in organizing his trip, which Theary Seng and the others have denied. Cambodian courts are widely believed to be under the influence of Hun Sen, whose authoritarian rule has kept him in power for 37 years. The Cambodia National Rescue Party was his party's biggest rival before it was disbanded by a court ruling just ahead of national elections in 2018 that resulted in a clean sweep by Hun Sen's Cambodia People's Party.

"The mass trials against political opposition members are really about preventing any electoral challenge to Prime Minister Hun Sen's rule, but they have also come to symbolize the death of Cambodia's



Cambodian-American lawyer Theary Seng, dressed in the Lady Liberty stands outside Phnom Penh Municipal Court in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

Associated Press

democracy," Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of New York-based Human Rights Watch, said in a statement. "By creating a political dynamic that relies on intimidation and persecution of government critics, Hun Sen demonstrates his total disregard for democratic rights."

The Phnom Penh Municipal Court found Theary Seng and most of the others guilty of conspiracy to commit treason, defense lawyer Choung Chou Ngy said. Theary Seng was sentenced to six years in jail, and the others received

sentences of five to eight years.

Many of the 60 defendants earlier fled into exile or went into hiding, and it wasn't immediately clear how many appeared in court for the verdict Tuesday. According to Human Rights Watch, 27 defendants who are in exile were tried in absentia.

Theary Seng stood outside the court as the verdict was announced, saying she wanted her arrest to be public and "not in the shadow." Journalists saw at least three police officers approach Theary Seng,

hold her hand and body, and push her into a waiting police truck shortly after the verdict came.

She was dressed as Lady Liberty, in a light green gown and a crown with "Freedom" written on it. She carried an imitation torch, which she raised and shouted "Free the political prisoners." She has worn thematic costumes to her court sessions to publicize her belief that Cambodia is not a democratic nation and the trial is unfair.

She told reporters she was ready for a "sham" guilty verdict.

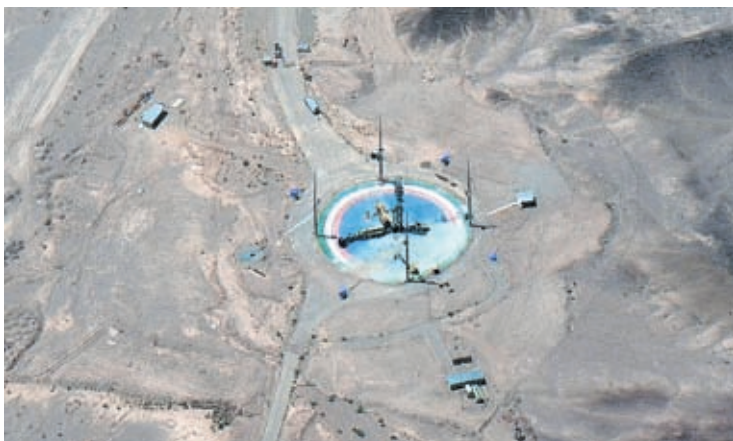
"I am ready and prepared to go to the notorious Cambodian prison for my political opinions, for my beliefs, for my belief in democracy, for my belief in freedom," she said. "I am ready to pay the price of prison in order that I live out my conscience and my belief in freedom and justice."

Choung Chou Ngy, who represents Theary Seng but not the other defendants, said he plans to file an appeal. He said the defendants who received five-year terms had their sentences suspended, but those with sentences of six to eight years were ordered jailed, and the judge ordered police to find those who were sentenced in absentia so they could face justice.

Theary Seng was jailed at Prey Sar prison on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Gen. Nut Savana, a spokesperson for the interior ministry's prison department, said in an interview with the online Swift News service. He said she had a medical check on arrival and was put in an isolation area for 21 days as a standard precaution against the spread of COVID-19.

U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia W. Patrick Murphy said on Twitter that the sentencing of Theary Seng and the others was deeply troubling. □

Satellite images suggest Iran preparing for rocket launch



This satellite image from Maxar Technologies shows a rocket erected at a launch pad at Imam Khomeini Space Center in Iran on Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran appeared to be readying for a space launch Tuesday as satellite

images showed a rocket on a rural desert launch pad, just as tensions remain high over Tehran's nucle-

ar program. The images from Maxar Technologies showed a launch pad at Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Iran's rural Semnan province, the site of frequent recent failed attempts to put a satellite into orbit.

One set of images showed a rocket on a transporter, preparing to be lifted and put on a launch tower. A later image showed the rocket apparently on the tower. Iran did not acknowledge a forthcoming launch at the space port and its mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a request for comment. However, its state-run IRNA

news agency in May said that Iran likely would have seven homemade satellites ready for launch by the end of the Persian calendar year in March 2023.

Over the past decade, Iran has sent several short-lived satellites into orbit and in 2013 launched a monkey into space. The program has seen recent troubles, however. There have been five failed launches in a row for the Simorgh program, a type of satellite-carrying rocket. A fire at the Imam Khomeini Spaceport in February 2019 also killed three researchers, authorities said at the time.

The launch pad used in

Tuesday's preparations remains scarred from an explosion in August 2019 that even drew the attention of then-President Donald Trump. He later tweeted what appeared to be a classified surveillance image of the launch failure. Satellite images from February suggested another failed launch earlier this year, though Iran did not acknowledge it.

The successive failures raised suspicion of outside interference in Iran's program, something Trump himself hinted at by tweeting at the time that the U.S. "was not involved in the catastrophic accident." □

Argentina authorities seek data on Iranian, Venezuelan crew

ALMUDENA CALATRAVA

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Police officers on

Tuesday searched the ho-

tel where the Venezuelan

and Iranian crew of a mys-

terious plane that remains

stuck at Buenos Aires' main

international airport have

been staying as authorities

blocked its exit amid sus-

picious about its crew and

U.S. sanctions against Iran.

Federal Judge Federico

Villena ordered the raid at

Hotel Plaza Canning, out-

side Buenos Aires, which

has housed the crew of the

Venezuelan-owned Boeing

747 cargo plane loaded

with automotive parts.

The plane has been stuck

at Argentina's largest air-

port since June 6 as Argen-

tine authorities have seized

the passports of the five Ira-

nians who are among the

at least 17 crew members

who arrived in Argentina

aboard the plane.

Argentina's Security Min-

ister, Aníbal Fernández,

said that the government

received information from

foreign intelligence agen-

cies that at least some of

the Iranian crew were part

of "companies related to



A Venezuelan-owned Boeing 747 taxis on the runway after landing in the Ambrosio Taravella air-
port in Cordoba, Argentina, Monday, June 6, 2022.

Associated Press

the Quds Force of the Rev-
olutionary Guard of Iran,"
which has been officially
listed as a terrorist organiza-
tion by the U.S. government
since 2007.

There do not appear to be
any warrants out for the
arrest of any of the crew-
members.

There are numerous sus-
picious surrounding the
plane, including the way
in which its operators re-
ported a lower number of

crewmembers than were
actually aboard, an unusu-
ally large contingent for a
cargo plane.

Until it was sold to Emtra-
sur around a year ago, the
plane had been owned by
Mahan Air of Iran, which
the U.S. government has
sanctioned for allegedly
aiding the Quds Force and
terrorist activities.

The plane had stopped
in other Latin American
countries, including Para-

guay and Mexico, in earlier
months, according to flight
tracking services.

Opposition leaders in Ar-
gentina have criticized the
government for allowing
the plane to land in the
country.

Argentine authorities insist
they have not found any
irregularities in the plane's
crew and the head of the
Federal Intelligence Agen-
cy, Agustín Rossi, criticized
the opposition for linking it

to international terrorism.

Rossi said the plane carried
cargo for several Argentine
auto parts companies that
it loaded in Mexico be-
fore stopping by Caracas
and arriving in Argentina
on June 6. It first landed in
the central city of Córdo-
ba due to weather condi-
tions that prevented it from
landing in Ezeiza, just out-
side Buenos Aires.

"The plane's cargo was
verified in all manners pos-
sible," Rossi told a local ra-
dio station.

The unusually large crew
had earlier raised suspicions
in Paraguay, where the
plane landed last month
in Ciudad del Este, close
to the Argentina and Brazil
borders, where it remained
between May 13 and May
16, Paraguay's interior min-
ister, Federico González,
told a local radio station on
Wednesday.

The plane landed in Para-
guay with "18 crew mem-
bers, of which seven were
Iranians and 11 Venezu-
elans," Douglas Cubilla,
head of airports at Para-
guay's National Civil Aero-
nautics Directorate, had
told a local radio station on
May 18. □

Danish-Canadian deal ends 49-year-old feud over Arctic isle

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — A territorial dispute

between Denmark and

Canada over a barren

and uninhabited rock in

the Arctic that has led to

decades of friendly friction

has come to an end, with

the two countries agreeing

on Tuesday to divide the

tiny island between them.

Under the agreement, a

border will be drawn across

the 1.3-square-kilometer

(half-square-mile) Hans Is-

land in the waterway be-

tween the northwestern

coast of the semi-auton-

omous Danish territory of

Greenland and Canada's

Ellesmere Island. The rock

has no known mineral re-

serves of value.

"It sends a clear signal that

it is possible to resolve bor-

der disputes ... in a prag-

matic and peaceful way,

where the all parties be-

come winners," said Dan-

ish Foreign Minister Jeppe
Kofod. He said it was "an
important signal now that
there is much war and un-
rest in the world."

Canada and Denmark
agreed in 1973 to create a
border through Nares Strait,
halfway between Green-
land and Canada. But
they were unable to agree
which country would have
sovereignty over Hans Is-
land, which lies about 1,100
kilometers (680 miles) south
of the North Pole. In the
end, they decided to work
out the question of owner-
ship later.

In the following years, the
territorial dispute — nick-
named the "whisky war" by
media — raised its head
multiple times.

In 1984, Denmark's min-
ister of Greenland affairs raised
a Danish flag on the island,
buried a bottle of Dan-
ish schnapps at the base

of the flagpole and left a
note saying, "Welcome to
the Danish island." Canadi-
ans then planted their own
flag and left a bottle of Ca-
nadian brandy. Since then,
the countries have in turns
hoisted their flags and left
bottles of various spirits in a
sort of tot-for-tot dispute.

In 2002, Nana Flensburg
was part of a Danish mili-
tary crew that stood on
the cliff to perform a flag-
raising ceremony. The Poli-
tiken newspaper on Tues-
day quote her as saying in
her diary that "among the
stones in the cairns were lots
of bottles, glasses, etc. with
documents that informed
about previous visits to the
island." The agreement
enters into force after the
two countries' internal pro-
cedures have been com-
pleted. In Denmark, the
Parliament must first give its
consent to the agreement.



Greenland Prime Minister Mute Bourup Egede, left, Denmark's
Minister for Foreign Affairs Jeppe Kofod, center, and Canada's
Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly share a three-way hand-
shake after signing an agreement that will establish a land bor-
der between Canada and Denmark on Hans Island, an Arctic is-
land between Nunavut and Greenland, Tuesday, June 14, 2022,
in Ottawa.

Associated Press

"It's a win for Canada. It's a
win for Denmark," Canadi-
an Foreign Minister Mélanie
Joly said, while alluding to
Russian President Vladimir
Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

"We're showing other coun-
tries how territorial disputes
can be resolved ... What
we're saying to President
Putin is, 'We have the best
way to settle disputes.'" □

Aqua Grill restaurant: The taste of New England with Caribbean flair



ORANJESTAD — One thing is for certain: Chef Scott Scheuerman and his team are famous for getting people

hooked, just like the fish on your plate. You will get the taste of home fused with Caribbean while dining in elegance. Scheuerman will tell how Aqua Grill established its name since opening in 2002, and why it reaped accolades from such prestigious travel publications as Fodor's, who says, "This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers, who will find fresh fish galore..." Now is your chance to taste Aqua Grill's NEW seasonal menu and create a lifetime culinary memory.



shipments on a weekly basis mostly from Boston because the price quality balance is the best, says the chef. "We are unique in this. Number one priority is buying fresh, we mean not frozen. Our original concept is New England seafood and we stick to that concept. They have a wonderful assortment of oysters and lobsters as well." Aqua Grill also offers international fusion type of menu items; actually all you wish for is there. A very balanced menu awaits you. "And we have options for meat lovers and vegetarians/vegans too. We, however, do not mix it up too much because we believe we do not want to lose our identity as a seafood restaurant," Scheuerman adds.

Sublime menu

Now is the time to indulge in Aqua Grill's dinner experience. The established restaurant offers a sensational menu. We present to you a Raw Bar with among others fresh Oysters on the half Shell, Littleneck Clams, Peruvian Ceviche and Lobster Salad. Steamed Dumplings and Prawns or Steamed Mussels seduce you from the open view kitchen.

After that continue your gastronomic trip to heaven with the house specialties like Main Lobster, steamed or broiled or maybe you crave for the best Alaska King Crab Legs you have ever tasted?

You haven't reached your destination yet because there are more main course options to blow you away: Seared Chilean Sea Bass, Cioppino or Blackened Tuba are just some to mention.

Take a pick out of Aqua Grill's delicious desserts to finally conclude yes, this beats it all. We will be back for more. □

Aqua Grill

J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 374

Phone: +297-586-5900

Fax: +297-586-5901

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American-born Scheuerman, executive chef of Aqua Grill, is thrilled about 'his restaurant'. "We started out as a New England style seafood restaurant, patterned after Boston style. But we quickly blended into some Caribbean, local flair... if you will. We do still offer the traditional New England dishes like whole Maine lobster, northern seafood plates like the salmon, tuna and swordfish. We buy also from the local fisherman to offer Caribbean dishes like snapper and grouper which are number one sellers in our restaurant being the most prevalent local fishes. Catches like wahoo, mahi mahi and brasil are welcome too, anything that comes out of the water we embrace."

Fresh import from Boston

Aqua Grill flies in their own

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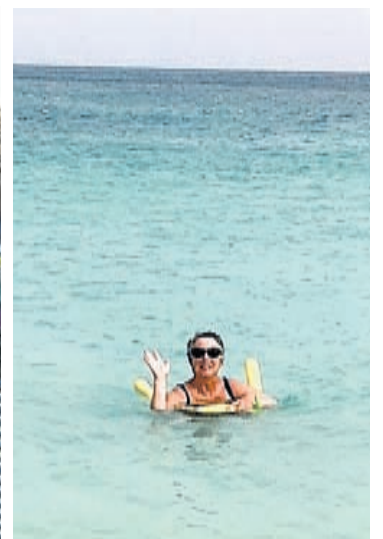


Antoinette "It's so great to be back"

Today we want to share with our readers a letter we received from one of our loyal reader Antoinetta de Wit from Canada.

I am a frequently returning Dutch-Canadian tourist, back in beautiful Aruba for a two week relaxing visit. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us personally and economically yet it is great to see that the people of Aruba have worked hard to mitigate the impact of being shut down and of a slowly improving economy. All of the airport staff were cordial, pleasant and happy to see us. The procedures for arrival are so easy to follow and standing in long lines has become less onerous than years ago. We were through it all faster than ever and a nice line of taxis stood at the ready. The welcoming associates at our time share Resort (La Cabana) knew we were coming, all of the paper work was done and our unit was ready for us to start our "happy to be here vacation".

Eagle Beach has always been very beautiful but this time we really noticed something even more beautiful... no cigarette or cigar butts anywhere, no loose straws or



other bits of garbage. We saw the beach crew of both La Cabana and Eagle Aruba scour the beach with their sifters, to ensure five star first impressions. It's so great to be back! ☐

Antoinetta DeWit
British Columbia
Canada

Corruption Survey 2022

Oranjestad, June 13, 2022 - The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) is conducting a "Corruption Survey", which began on June 10, 2022. The online survey includes, among others, questions about the level of corruption, experiences with corruption when using services particularly in the public sector, and the need for additional anti-corruption measures.

Curbing corruption in Aruba is a high priority for the CBA, because corruption has far reaching negative economic and social repercussions. Several international organizations, such as Transparency International, frequently execute surveys on the level of corruption in many countries. To compensate for

the fact that Aruba is not part of these international surveys, and consequently important data on local corruption are not available, the CBA has been conducting the corruption survey since 2018.

We are aware that this information is sensitive. We therefore stress that this survey is strictly anonymous and guarantee that all information received will be treated with the utmost confidence. Data will only be used on an aggregated basis for statistical and analytical purposes. All Aruban residents older than 18 years are invited to take part in this important survey by filling in the online questionnaire. This can be accessed via our website: www.cbaruba.org. ☐

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Offer valid until June 31, 2022.



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Aruban roots

Episode CLVIII - 158

Etnia Nativa facilitates cultural awareness, education and safeguards Aruba's heritage by elevating each reader into an island keeper state of mind. Be encouraged to discover in every episode the true native effect, live it, get more reasons to love Aruba behind the beaches and live up your stay in an incredibly wonderful way.

Our main objective is to educate the readers in Aruba's heritage since when you love and value what you have, ones greatest desire is to protect it. In this episode you will know who is an Aruban native.

Aruba has a native ethnic heritage, ethnicity referring to the identity of a group of people linked by a long common past. Members of an ethnic group often share a common ancestry, history, and language. The autochthonous Aruban root comes from the Caquetia ethnic group that inhabited northwestern South America, extending along Lake Maracaibo and were farmers from the tropical forests of the continent who came by sea to conquer the islands of Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba.

Like all aboriginal people, the knowledge of the Caquetio people arose from close contact with nature, from their need to dominate it and to seek solutions to their problems using biodiversity in it. These people shared cultural identity and creativity from the raw materials available, taking into account the desire to improve both at a community and personal level. Even though Aruba was not welcoming european settlers, a steady mestization took place under the natives first the Castillian followed by the Dutch, Jews, Brithish and



other western Europeans. You can say that an Aruban is made out of 4% Afro 16% Western European and 80% Native Amerindian.

To this day we see the reflection of that local Amerindian cuultural heritage that has been passed from generation to generation such as making sea going vessels, fishing practises, holding plantations and animal husbandry in thier "cunucus". For our ancestors, corn was a vitally important crop, followed by cassava, beans, pumpkins, and peanuts. But corn was already considered sacred for the Caquetio who respected this plant as mother food. A testimony to this sacred cultivation are the milling stones called qudi or metate that was used to grind corn and to this day forms part of the garden of many Aruban homes.

Also our ancestors were educated with the belief that the natural resources of

the earth should be used with respect and that, if possible, something should be given in exchange in gratutude. That is why in a few more days the island will be illuminated by different bonfires from in raletion to the ceremony of "Dera Gay"

Dera Gai _meaning "burying the rooster" an anual harvest festival whose beginning dates back before to colonial times and to this day the traditional dances and songs are maintained. The symbol of the rooster and the bright red and yellow costumes are the center-piece of the events that take place in various places, such as the neighborhood centers. During the celebration of "Dera Gai" there was a ritual where a live rooster was buried up to the neck and decapitated with a stick and covered eyes, considering that the drained blood would make the land fertile for the coming harvest season. Today the roosters are no longer beheaded, however blindfolded participants one by one must find a flag nailed to the ground or a real stuffed rooster while mouving the stick to the ritim of the music of a band.

Also on the eve of this holiday, bonfires are lit where the remains of the previous year's harvest are burned in preparation for the new growing season, so prepare to see bonfires all over the Aruban countryside and as usual some fire trucks run up and down to tame fires that got out of hand in the strong wind.

If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa: a cozy museum/home.☐



Etnia Nativa a private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials.

Meet Anthony Croes, our columnist at his home! Book your visit Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@gmail.com

EXPLAINER: Recession fears grow. Just how high is the risk?

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation is at a 40-year high. Stock prices are sinking. The Federal Reserve is making borrowing much costlier. And the economy actually shrank in the first three months of this year.

Is the United States at risk of enduring another recession, just two years after emerging from the last one?

For now, most economists don't foresee a downturn in the near future. Despite the inflation squeeze, consumers — the primary driver of the economy — are still spending at a healthy pace. Businesses are investing in equipment and software, reflecting a positive outlook. And the job market is still booming, with hiring strong, layoffs low and many employers eager for more workers.

"Nothing in the U.S. data is currently suggesting a recession is imminent," Rubeeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote Tuesday. "Job growth remains strong and households are still spending."

That said, Farooqi cautioned, "the economy faces headwinds."

Among the signs that recession risks are rising: High inflation has proved far more entrenched and persistent than many economists — and the Fed — had expected: Consumer prices rose 8.6% last month from a year earlier, the biggest annual 12-month jump since 1981. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has exacerbated global food and energy prices. Extreme lockdowns in China over COVID-19 worsened supply shortages.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell has vowed to do whatever it might take to curb inflation, including raising interest rates so high as to weaken the economy. If that happens, the Fed could potentially trigger a recession, perhaps in the second half of next year, economists say.

On Wednesday, the Fed is set to raise its benchmark interest rate, which affects many consumer and busi-



In this Tuesday, June 15, 2021 photograph, beef is displayed in the meat department at Lambert's Rainbow Market, in Westwood, Mass.

Associated Press

ness loans, by as much as three-quarter of a percentage point. That would be the Fed's largest rate hike since 1994, and it could herald the start of a period of especially aggressive credit tightening by the central bank — and with it, a higher risk of recession.

Analysts say the U.S. economy, which has thrived for years on the fuel of ultra-low borrowing costs, might not be able to withstand the impact of much higher rates.

The nation's unemployment rate is at a near-half-century low of 3.6%, and employers are posting a near record number of open jobs. So what might cause an economy with such a healthy labor market to suffer a recession?

Here's what the path to an eventual downturn could look like:

— The Fed's rate hikes are sure to slow spending in areas that require consumers to borrow, with housing the most visible example. The average rate on 30-year fixed mortgages topped 5% in April for the first time in a decade and has stayed there since. A year ago, the average was below 3%. Home sales have fallen in response. And so have mortgage applications, a sign that sales will keep slowing. A similar trend could occur in other mar-

kets, for cars, appliances and furniture, for example.

— Borrowing costs for businesses are rising, as reflected in increased yields on corporate bonds. At some point, those higher rates could weaken business investment. If companies pull back on buying new equipment or expanding capacity, they will also start to slow hiring.

— Falling stock prices may discourage affluent households, who collectively hold the bulk of America's stock wealth, from spending as much on vacation travel, home renovations or new appliances. Broad stock indexes have tumbled for five straight weeks. Falling share prices also tend to diminish the ability of corporations to expand.

— Rising caution among companies and consumers about spending freely could further slow hiring or even lead to layoffs. If the economy were to lose jobs and the public were to grow more fearful, consumers would pull back further on spending.

— The consequences of high inflation would worsen this scenario. Wage growth, adjusted for inflation, would slow and leave Americans with even less purchasing power. Though a weaker economy would eventually reduce inflation, until then high prices could

hinder consumer spending. — Eventually, the slowdown would feed on itself, with layoffs mounting as economic growth slowed, leading consumers to increasingly cut back out of concern that they, too, might lose their jobs.

The clearest sign that a recession might be nearing, economists say, would be a steady rise in job losses and a surge in unemployment. As a rule of thumb, an increase in the unemployment rate of three-tenths of a percentage point, on average over the previous three months, has meant that a recession will eventually follow.

Many economists also monitor changes in the interest payments, or yields, on different bonds for a recession signal known as an "inverted yield curve." This occurs when the yield on the 10-year Treasury falls below the yield on a short-term Treasury, such as the 3-month T-bill. That is unusual, because longer-term bonds typically pay investors a richer yield in exchange for tying up their money for a longer period. Inverted yield curves generally mean that investors foresee a recession and will compel the Fed to slash rates. Inverted curves often predate recessions. Still, it can take as long as 18 or 24 months for the downturn to

arrive after the yield curve inverts.

A short-lived inversion occurred Tuesday, when the yield on the two-year Treasury briefly fell below the 10-year yield as it did temporarily in April. Many analysts say, though, that comparing the 3-month yield to the 10-year has a better recession-forecasting track record. Those rates are not inverting now.

Powell has said the Fed's goal was to raise rates to cool borrowing and spending so that companies would reduce their huge number of job openings. In turn, Powell hopes, companies won't have to raise pay as much, thereby easing inflation pressures, but without significant job losses or an outright recession.

"I do expect that this will be very challenging," Powell said. "It's not going to be easy."

Though economists say it's possible for the Fed to succeed, most now also say they're skeptical that the central bank can tame such high inflation without eventually derailing the economy.

Deutsche Bank economists think the Fed will have to raise its key rate to at least 3.6% by mid-2023, enough to cause a recession by the end of that year.

Still, many economists say any recession would likely be mild. American families are in much better financial shape than they were before the extended 2008-2009 Great Recession, when plunging home prices and lost jobs ruined many households' finances. □

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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6-15

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-15

CRYPTOQUOTE

Z H R R L T X R O R H P Z T X D M

F Q R G D Q H G X C P C O R M O Z Q L

— Z Q M C E Z L Z U M

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A THOUGHTFUL MIND, WHEN IT SEES A NATION'S FLAG, SEES NOT THE FLAG ONLY, BUT THE NATION ITSELF. — HENRY WARD BEECHER

Cruise liners try to rewrite climate rules despite vows



Cruise ships float at PortMiami, on April 7, 2020, in Miami.

Associated Press

By ED DAVEY

Associated Press

The trade group representing the cruise ship industry unsuccessfully pushed international authorities to water down new environmental regulations despite its members' climate commitments, experts in marine air pollution warn. Late last month, the International Maritime Organization rejected a cruise industry effort that would have improved cruise ships' carbon pollution scores. Environmental groups say it also would have led to more air pollution by allowing cruise liners to continue with business as usual.

The Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has membership that accounts for 95% of global cruise trips. Its four biggest members, Carnival Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean, Norwegian Cruise Line and MSC Cruises, tout their climate awareness and have all committed to drastically cutting emissions.

Yet according to a filing in April, the cruise ship association lobbied the International Maritime Organization's members to change proposed rules in a man-

ner critics say will lead to increased emissions, while saving cruise lines money.

The International Maritime Organization is the United Nations body responsible for regulating the safety and environmental impact of shipping. Some 175 member states vote on its proposed legislation.

The proposed change would "certainly" have had a negative climate impact, said John Maggs, president of the Clean Shipping Coalition, an umbrella group of environmental groups that has official status at the maritime organization.

"The regulations are very weak anyway, and CLIA is trying to make them even weaker," said Maggs, who has almost 30 years in the field. "They are trying to water down the regulations."

But the cruise industry argues the new regulation misrepresents the efficiency of their vessels, which should not be penalized for spending more time in port than cargo ships.

Shipping emits about 2.9% of global carbon dioxide emissions, just over a billion tons of CO2 annually. Cruise liners produce more

carbon dioxide annually on average than any other kind of ship due to their air conditioning, heated pools and other hotel amenities, studies have shown.

Carnival, which describes itself as "sustainable from ship to shore," has committed to reducing its carbon emissions 40% by 2030 to meet the terms of the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global temperature rises to 1.5C.

Royal Caribbean and MSC Cruises have each pledged to meet net zero emissions by 2050, while Norwegian Cruise Lines has spoken of a "long-term goal" to reach climate neutrality.

Beginning in 2023, all large ships will be assigned a Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII), worked out by dividing CO2 output by the capacity of the ship and again by nautical miles traveled. It will give ships an A to E sustainability rating. If a ship gets a poor rating, it has to submit a plan for how it will improve to at least a C, but there is currently no plan for penalties for badly-rated ships.

Nevertheless the trade group lobbied national delegations at the International Maritime Organization, which was established in the wake of the Titanic disaster, to make a special allowance for cruise ships. It argued their vessels differ from cargo ships because of the lengthy stays in port that are part of a cruise liner's existence -- typically with engines running to keep the lights on. This time in port hurts cruise ships' ratings, because they thus emit more carbon per mile. "As a result, in-port emissions have a disproportionate impact" on a ship's carbon intensity grade, the industry told the agency.

Bill Weihl, a former sustainability chief at both Google and Facebook, who established Climate Voice, which calls on employees to pressure their companies into climate action, called it a familiar story for U.S. companies. □

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Review: A prison experiment gone wrong in 'Spiderhead'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

George Saunders' short story "Escape from Spiderhead" is not, you might say, an obviously cinematic piece. It's the kind of subtly unsettling work — stark, moody and dialogue heavy — that could easily be a play or a haunting experimental film. So it's an especially bold leap to use it as the inspiration for a starry, big budget, Netflix-subscriber-driving event movie, as they've done with "Spiderhead," which starts streaming Friday. But stranger things have worked for the streamer and who doesn't like a slick, dystopian sci-fi?

Originally published in The New Yorker in 2010, "Escape from Spiderhead" is about a group of prisoners living in a specialized facility who are being subjected to experimental mood-altering drugs, with names like Verbaluce, which makes you speak eloquently, and Darkenfloxx, which makes you feel about as badly as a person can feel. The audience experiences the world through one of the inmates, Jeff, who is starting to question the tests, the drugs and the myste-



This image released by Netflix shows Chris Hemsworth in a scene from "Spiderhead."

Associated Press

rious leader of the facility, Abnesti, who keeps an open-door policy in the Spiderhead to foster trust and respect with the prisoners. You have to admire the ambition behind those who had the idea to adapt the story. Screenwriters Paul Wernick and Rhett Reese ("Deadpool") needed to make many big choices and leaps to stretch it out to feature-length: They added backstories, love interests and flashbacks. Director Joseph Kosinski and his team, including cinematographer Claudio

Miranda (who also teamed with him on "Top Gun: Maverick") further had to dream up an entire look for Spiderhead, too. They went with dystopian brutality plopped in the middle of a tropical paradise. Jeff is played by Miles Teller (who also worked with Kosinski on "Top Gun: Maverick" and the underseen firefighter drama "Only the Brave") and Abnesti is taken on by Chris Hemsworth, who also produced. The writers have turned Abnesti into a more blatant eccentric, a visionary pharma/tech genius

who makes grand speeches about the perks of life in Spiderhead and the virtuousness of the experiments while also sampling his own product on the side. It's quite a good role for Hemsworth, who excels at being charming with an undercurrent of mania. There's even an incredible dance sequence to Roxy Music's "More Than This" that is perhaps on par with Oscar Isaac and Sonoya Mizuno's "Ex Machina" moves. Like his brief turn in "Ghostbusters," it makes you eager to see him keep branching out

beyond Thor. Jeff, meanwhile, is somewhat stripped of his edge and tragic poetry and is turned into a bro with a conscience and visceral memories of the ill-fated night he decided to drive drunk. And he gets an actual, not drug enhanced love interest, which under normal circumstances would seem a bit cliché but here is made interesting because of Jurnee Smollett's raw and captivating performance.

Some of these choices work, some are silly and some come across as downright mean. In the story, Jeff is subjected to the love serum twice to see what happens with two different women described as "equally so-so." Both times he falls deeply, albeit briefly, in love. In the film, however, one woman is conventionally attractive and the other is styled as though she may be a meth addict. It's turned into a joke, and a somewhat misogynistic one at that, and the poetic connection is reduced to an over-the-top sex bit. There's a gay panic bit, too, and an odd subplot about an inmate who has been stealthily drawing on the walls with feces. □

Sean 'Diddy' Combs to receive lifetime honor at BET Awards



Sean "Diddy" Combs arrives at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas on May 15, 2022.

Associated Press

By **JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.**
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sean "Diddy" Combs built one of hip-hop's biggest empires, blazing a trail with his own music television network and fashion line, and now

his decorated career has earned him one of the highest honors at the BET Awards this month. Combs will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award on June 26, the network announced Monday. He

is the founder of Bad Boy Records and a three-time Grammy winner who has worked with a slew of top-tier artists including Notorious B.I.G., Mary J. Blige, Usher, Lil Kim, Faith Evans and 112.

The music mogul created the fashion clothing line called Sean John, launched the Revolt TV with a focus on music and has his own vodka. He's also produced the reality show "Making the Band" for MTV. "Diddy has always been a pioneering force in our community, breaking barriers, achieving unprecedented heights, blazing new trails, and, in so doing, raising the bar for all of us," BET CEO Scott Mills said in a statement. "His virtuosity is matched only by his range — from music to me-

dia, culture, business and philanthropy — Diddy has exemplified Black excellence."

The award is given to an individual who has shaped culture through their careers and "transformative leaders that consistently inspire generations."

Past recipients include Prince, Whitney Houston, Queen Latifah, Samuel L. Jackson, Lionel Richie, Anita Baker and New Edition. Combs, 52, won Grammys for his platinum-selling 1997 album "No Way Out" and the single "I'll Be Missing You," a song dedicated to the late Notorious B.I.G. who was killed earlier that year. He won another Grammy for "Shake Ya Tailfeather" with Nelly and Murphy Lee.

In 2004, the rapper-pro-

ducer played Walter Lee Younger in the Broadway revival of "A Raisin in the Sun," which aired as a television adaption four years later. He's also appeared in films including "Get Him to the Greek" and "Monster's Ball."

Last month, Combs recently hosted the Billboard Music Awards.

"Puff's contributions to culture transcend hip-hop," said Jesse Collins, executive producer of the awards. "Growing up in DC, I watched his rise at Howard University as he repped Black excellence from day one. It's an honor to celebrate him now, while he is still on his incredible journey."

Taraji P. Henson will host the live show from the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. □

However it ends, these NBA Finals may be a classic

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

The series won't end until Thursday, or maybe Sunday. A champion will be crowned, an NBA Finals MVP trophy will be hoisted, one side will spray a few gallons of champagne and the other side will head out into a summer of lament. The winner: Still to be determined. But this much is already clear: Even without a single game decided by single digits through the first five contests, these 2022 NBA Finals are on the brink of going down as a classic. It's Golden State 3, Boston 2 going into Game 6 on the Celtics' home floor on Thursday night. The Warriors grabbed the lead in the series with a 104-94 win on Monday in San Francisco, the latest entry on a long list of gut-check moments in this series and the first time either of these teams found a way to win consecutive games in this matchup. "It feels good," Golden State's Klay Thompson said. "But we haven't done anything yet." It looked easy early for his team in Game 5, with the



Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins (22) dunks against the Boston Celtics during the second half of Game 5 of basketball's NBA Finals in San Francisco, Monday, June 13, 2022.
Associated Press

Warriors up 16 before long and taking a 12-point lead into halftime. Boston roared back in the third, taking as much as a five-point lead before Golden State restored order and pulled away in the fourth — the latest entry on a list of wild back-and-forth swings that has defined this series. The basketball hasn't always been pretty. Even the

most prolific 3-point shooter ever, the Warriors' Stephen Curry, clanked all nine of his tries from deep in Game 5. The combined shooting numbers in these NBA Finals are the lowest for a title series since 2016, and so is the scoring average. But that's more a byproduct of two teams with a propensity for cranking up defense when they must, more than lack-

luster offense. "Our team came out with a lot of fight," Golden State's Jordan Poole said after Game 5. Such has been the story of these NBA Finals — the guys with more fight walk off winners. Such has really been the story for Boston most of the way in these playoffs. The Celtics won a Game 7 in Round 2 to oust defend-

ing champion Milwaukee. Went on the road in the Eastern Conference finals to win a Game 7 at Miami to get here. And now they know, they'll need to win another Game 7 if they're going to win this title. "The message to the guys is to be confident going home, get your rest, let's get ready to bring it back here," Celtics coach Ime Udoka said. "For us, it's really about consistency. That's the thing we're not having throughout a full game, consistent efforts, sustained effort, more so offensively than anything." The entire series has been a pair of heavyweights throwing knockout punches. The 48-18 run by the Celtics to turn a 15-point third-quarter deficit into a 15-point fourth-quarter lead in Game 1. The 35-14 third quarter that the Warriors turned into an easy win in Game 2. The way the Celtics wasted a big lead, then outscored the Warriors 34-17 to close Game 3. Curry scoring 43 points, even yelling at the crowd along the way, to lead Golden State to a road win in Game 4. □

Serena Williams gets wild-card entry for Wimbledon singles

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

Serena Williams is going to play at Wimbledon, after all. The All England Club announced on Tuesday that Williams was awarded a wild-card entry for singles, marking her return to Grand Slam action after a year away. The owner of a professional era-record 23 Grand Slam singles trophies, and as big a star as tennis ever has seen, is going to tune up by playing doubles at a smaller grass-court event first, teaming with Ons Jabeur at Eastbourne, England, next week. Main-draw play at Wimbledon begins on June 27. Williams has not competed anywhere since getting injured during the first set of her first-round match at the All England Club in 2021. And her name did not appear on the women's sin-

gles entry list released by the grass-court Grand Slam tournament earlier this month. But Williams was among a half-dozen women given a spot in the singles draw on Tuesday, along with five British players: Katie Boulter, Jodie Burrage, Sonay Kartal, Yuriko Miyazaki and Katie Swan. Two other women will get invitations "in due course," the All England Club said. Seven of the eight men's wild-card berths were also announced, including one for three-time major champion Stan Wawrinka. Earlier in the day, Williams posted a photo of her white shoes on what appears to be a grass court and the message: "SW and SW19. It's a date. 2022. See you there. Let's Go." "SW" are her initials, of course, and "SW19" is the postal code for Wimble-

don. The 40-year-old American has won seven of her singles trophies at Wimbledon, the first in 2002 and most recently in 2016. Williams was the runner-up there in 2018 and 2019 (the tournament was canceled in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic). In 2021, Williams lost her footing on the slick grass and then her right leg buckled, leading to just the second mid-match retirement at any Grand Slam tournament of her career and first since 1998. With the lack of activity since then, Williams — who first reached No. 1 in July 2002 — is 1,208th in the WTA rankings this week. That is why she was not automatically placed in the Wimbledon field. While Williams has been sidelined, first Ash Barty and then Iga Swiatek stepped



Serena Williams of the U.S. holds her trophy after winning the women's singles final against Angelique Kerber of Germany on day thirteen of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Saturday, July 9, 2016.
Associated Press

into the opening left by her extended absence. Barty won Wimbledon last year and the Australian Open this January to solidify her hold on the No. 1 ranking, but then abruptly retired at age 25 in March.

That allowed Swiatek to rise to No. 1, and she has backed up that new status with an ongoing 35-match winning streak that included claiming a second French Open trophy this month. □

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That unbeaten stretch exceeds by one a 34-match run Williams put together in 2013 and equals one by Williams' older sister, Venus, for the longest since 2000.

Adding Williams to the bracket at the All England Club adds quite a story line for this year's tournament, which as things stood was going to be filled with them, including the ban on players from Russia and Belarus because of the invasion of Ukraine, the subsequent removal of rankings points by the WTA and ATP tours, the 100th anniversary of the opening of Centre Court and the addition of scheduled play on the fortnight's middle Sunday for the first time. □



San Diego Padres' Fernando Tatis Jr. reacts with teammates after hitting a home run during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Sept. 24, 2021, in San Diego.

Associated Press

By **BERNIE WILSON**
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Fernando Tatis Jr.'s surgically repaired left wrist hasn't progressed to the point where the electrifying All-Star shortstop can start swinging a bat, general

manager A.J. Preller said Tuesday.

Tatis had a three-month follow-up exam in Arizona on Monday with Dr. Donald Sheridan, who operated on his broken wrist in mid-March.

The MRI exam "continues

Padres star shortstop Tatis Jr can't swing a bat just yet

to show healing," but not enough for the doctor to "give a full green light," Preller said.

The shortstop, who signed a \$340 million, 14-year contract before the 2021 season, has been doing a number of activities, including taking ground balls, throwing and running. Swinging a bat will begin the last major step his comeback.

"The full go, start swinging the bat, playing in rehab games, that's going to be more of a week-to-week decision here going forward," Preller said.

Otherwise, the doctor felt positive about Tatis' strength and range of mo-

tion, Preller said.

Tatis, 23, reportedly was injured in an offseason motorcycle accident in his native Dominican Republic. Although there were social media posts at the time that showed Tatis' wrist wrapped up, the extent of the injury wasn't known until he reported to spring training.

The Padres have pulled into a virtual tie with the rival Los Angeles Dodgers atop the NL West without Tatis, who brings a swag-gar both at the plate and in the field.

Slugger Manny Machado has had an MVP-caliber start to the season, and the Padres have a strong

rotation topped by local product Joe Musgrove, who leads the majors with a 1.50 ERA. Kim Ha-seong, who signed with the Padres before last season out South Korea's KBO League, has made the bulk of the starts at shortstop.

Tatis finished third in voting for NL MVP last season after hitting .282 with 42 home runs, 97 RBIs and 25 stolen bases in 130 games. He missed time with a troublesome left shoulder that led the Padres to play him in the outfield for several games as a precaution.

The son of the former big league infielder, Tatis made his big league debut in 2019. □